

**BY THE SOUTHERN MAIL**

**Washington.**  
[Correspondence of the Herald.]  
WASHINGTON, April 25, 1849.

*Mr. Ellsworth Charge to Sweden and not to Grenada—Who is to be Commissioner of Patents!—New York Post Office under Consideration—The Marshals—The Visit of James Knox Walker, Private Secretary, to Boston and New York, accompanied by Mr. Corcoran and Mr. Cushing—*

*What is it for?—Government Deposits and Pet Banks—The Post Master General—Contracts and Prices—The Contractors' letter to the Post Master General—Coleman of the National and his Delicacies.*

informed that Mr. Ellsworth, the Commissioner of Patents, sent in his resignation of that office, dated prospectively some weeks ago, and the appointment of his son was predicted upon the recommendation of the members of the Legislature of Indiana and all the leading men of that State. His father has an estate in Indiana, and intends to retire thereto, and offered his resignation to Mr. Polk immediately after the inauguration. The Commissioner of Patents is Mr. M. C. Smith.

The New York Post Office is now under consideration. Who will be appointed it is difficult to foretell, but I understand that Mr. Leonard, late M. G. from New York, stands as good, if not a better chance than any other candidate.

There are various competitors for the Marshalship here still. Among them are Captain Rynders, the Don Giovanni of the age, and Gansvoort Melville. Both are here as large as life. Some of the knowing ones say that the Don Giovanni stands as

Considerable speculation has been afloat here as to the reason of the visit of James Knox Walker to Boston and New York. He was accompanied by Mr. Corcoran, a broker of this city, and Caleb Cushing. The most reasonable conclusion which can be drawn is, that these gentlemen are on a business trip, and especially that they are here to see about government deposits, pet banks, and so forth, and so on. It is an interesting question to decide that, which of the banks will give the largest commission to obtain the use of the de-

posts, and at the same time give the most effective support to government? It is said that this position realized by Reuben M. Brown. At the same time, some ten or fifteen thousand dollars a year. Nice pickings those, though the progressive democracy are opposed to banks.

The Post Master General and his First Assistant are very busily engaged in examining and deciding upon the bids for contracts. I understand that very large reductions indeed have been effected in the bids for contracts—some being as much as one-half and three-fourths less than previously. I learn,

also, that there is no fear of any combination on the part of the contractors, so as to throw the mails into confusion. I have learned from the good authorities, that the 35 contractors who signed the letter addressed to the Post Master General, requesting a postponement of the contracts for a year, to which he returned a negative, and from which arose a fear that the contractors would combine and refuse to execute the contracts, are 35 persons, instead of representing the body of the contractors, represented only themselves, and sought only to obtain advantages for themselves by their course, which,

Coleman, of the National Hotel, is famous for his promptitude in catering for good things where-with to regale his friends. Epicures hereabouts are just beginning to wish they were as far South as Charleston, in the hope that they might find green peas, &c. when lo! to-day at dinner a plentiful supply of green peas, with fresh lobsters,

and other early and unlooked for delicacies, graced the board. A ferocious onslaught was immediately made upon said peas, and each one seemed as if he were afraid they would be none left him, but there were plenty and to spare. Coleman is the prince of landlords in this region.

—WASHINGTON, April 26, 1845.

*Executive Affairs—Virginia Elections—New York Committee.*

The Fourth Auditor, Gen. McCalla, comes out

in last night's *Globe*, with an elaborate and able defence of himself against the assaults of his political enemies in Kentucky. The General has been particularly fortunate. He has had three great triumphs. He has put down Clay—he has promoted himself—and, at last, condescends to turn back and spike the enemy's guns. It is said that Mr. Clay regards McCalla's success with Captain Polk with undisguised chagrin and mortification.

And well he may—for, while such Presbyterian puritanical politicians as O'Sullivan [in the late canvass affected a holy horror of personalities, Gen. McCalla was not slow in depicting on the stump, the wine-bibbing, gambling, and Sabbath-breaking propensities of the "Great Harry."—How can Mr. Claf otherwise regard Captain Polk, who endorses the charges of McCalla, in his appointment to office? The answer is obvious:—conclusively that Capt. Polk has no disposition to court the favor of the whigs, or the "embodiment

The war spasm of yesterday has subsided like a fit of the epilepsy. We shall have no war, whatever may be the necessity, till the meeting of Congress. And we shall have no extra session, unless circumstances may arise which may make such an extraordinary session imperatively necessary for the salvation of Texas. And that is not a mere moonshine. Indeed, we believe that South

Carolina, at this moment, would accede to the giving Queen Victoria a fee simple to the whole of Oregon, provided she ceased tampering with the rights of Texas. But the Cabinet present an unbroken front in behalf of Oregon. Mr. McMillan may be slightly ticked with the Dismal Swamp objections of Mr. Archer. Meantime, there is an armistice in the negotiations respecting the Northwestern boundary, the settlement of which promises to be infinitely more difficult than the Websterian-Ashburton boundary.

The Virginia elections, (some of which will be

turned you by the evening's train) appear to have gone for the locofocos, tooth and nail. Hopes are even entertained that Botts is "headed," and that Bayley or his chief clerk, Mr. J. M. McKim, will be elected. Mr. McKim is reported to be elected by a majority of 100 in the Legislature, the very start which he made in public life thirty years ago, and which ground has all to be travelled over again, before there is any hope now of his returning to the United States Senate.

They are busied in the Departments overhauling the files, and re-arranging the ministerial lists, all

straight. We shall certainly expect now something to be done in the way of rotation. The Secretary of the Treasury and the Postmaster General especially, are said to have a good deal of work cut out.

A few of your New York appointment committee remain in town, and we would mention Hon. H. G. Clinton as one, but he is so modest and sensitive about appearing in print, that we refrain.

GULLIVER.

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WASHINGTON, April 26, 1845.

Rumored Attempt to Assassinate the President—  
Mr. Elmore declines the Mission to England—  
Who will be Appointed?—Mr. Pickens, of S. C.—  
Mr. Rhett, of S. C.—Should Mr. Rhett be  
Sent?—Oregon Negotiations, and Mr. Calhoun  
—Would he not withdraw his objections, and go  
there to undertake the Settlement of the Oregon  
Question?—Should he not be sent?  
There was a rumor floating about this morning,

that an attempt had been made for last evening to assassinate President Polk, and that the man had been apprehended and lodged in jail. On making inquiry, however, it turned out that no attempt on James K. Polk had been made at all, but that the report had arisen from the arrest of a crazy man, who had been cutting up some antic at the White House. It seems that some poor fellow had come to the White House, and insisted on providing Martin, the porter, with a good meal, and con-

sequently he brought a couple of bottles of wine, and laid them on the table in the East Room, and then brought two loaves of bread, and displayed them in the same place, and was afterwards so situated that he could see all that was passing in his hand, and when they were looking for him up stairs, he would be down, and vice versa. He gave them some little trouble, and was rather crooked; but not being able to quiet him in any other way, he was marched to the watchhouse and locked up, whence arose this rumor.

sion to England. Conjectures are now rife as to who will have the offer, and from information I have received, I am inclined to believe that it will be tendered to Mr. Pickens, of S. C. I think this would be a rather injudicious selection, for Mr. P., although he may be a talented man, is yet a rash,